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that it should precede a course in general sociology. It would seem to the reviewer, however, that beginning students should be put upon more tangible and concrete problems than those afforded by suggestion and imitation, custom and convention.

CHARLES A. ELLWOOD.

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Natives of Australia. By NORTHCOTE W. THOMAS. (London: Archibald Constable and Company, 1906. Pp. xii, 256.)

Kinship Organizations and Group Marriage in Australia. By NORTHCOTE W. THOMAS. (Cambridge: University Press, 1906. Pp. xiii, 163.)

The first of these volumes is a non-technical account of the Australian aborigines, and is the first of *The Native Races of the British Empire* series, of which Mr. Thomas is editor. It gives an outline of the linguistic, industrial, social and religious characteristics of the natives, is amply illustrated, and has a map showing the distribution of the tribes. In his *Kinship Organizations* Mr. Thomas goes into a more critical discussion of the present aspects of the problems of Australian social organization. He combats Morgan's theory of original promiscuity out of which group marriage was developed. He likewise takes issue with Spencer and Gillen, and Howitt with reference to assigning a literal meaning to the terms of relationship in use at the present time. Both as a summary of the evidence on the questions in dispute and for its original contribution to their discussion the book is one of value.

U. G. W.

Essays in Municipal Administration. By JOHN A. FAIRLIE. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Pp. vii, 374. \$2.50 net.)

Dr. Fairlie is always interesting and instructive when he writes on municipal topics; but the present volume is not up to his earlier ones either in interest or value. Very likely this is

due to the fact that it is made up of essays on a great variety of topics gathered from various sources, the *Political Science Quarterly*, the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, the *Proceedings of the National Municipal League*, law reviews and the like.

These topics group themselves into classes. The first relates to those dealing with the problems of organization and the legal relations of cities and states; the second, with municipal functions and activities, and the third with personal observations on municipal government abroad. Some are of ephemeral importance, others could have been saved for more elaborate treatment. Nevertheless the book is a handy one for the student of municipal questions and is full of significant facts and figures.

The longest essay is the one on Municipal Corporations in the Colonies and it is to be hoped that the studies so well begun in this chapter will be continued by Professor Fairlie and expanded into a volume. The chapter is full of most striking facts concerning the chartered boroughs or municipal corporations established in several of the colonies during the 17th and early 18th centuries. These he maintains are the historical origins of our American municipal government. "The institutional history from the colonial corporations to the cities of today is continuous, and the influence of the former on the latter is clearly visible * * * It forms in fact a necessary introduction to any history of municipal development in the United States."

Another chapter, which although already quite long, is worthy of fuller treatment is that on American Municipal Councils. It is intended to supply the lack of definite information concerning the primary facts of municipal organization. Some of the statistics are full of significance and illustrate, if that were still necessary, the heterogeneous nature of American municipal government.

The volume is full of thoughtful observation and advice well worth the consideration of the citizen. For instance in the chapter on Problems of American City Government from the Administrative Point of View, he declares: "The demand for municipal home rule should be made more specific and more definite. It must be made clear that what is wanted is not a revolution involving the complete separation of the cities from the state, but a large free-

dom in matters of local concern from the restrictions of detailed municipal legislation while retaining the control of the judiciary and asking for the assistance and supervision of state officers in securing the highest and best municipal administration in the world."

Some of the chapters, notably that on Recent Legislation on Municipal Functions in the United States and that on Revenue Systems, (the latter prepared in collaboration with Prof. Charles E. Merriam of the University of Chicago), are admirable summaries of the subjects treated.

On the whole one is glad to have a volume like this on his desk, for its information is fresh and accurate and its observations and criticisms thoughtful and worth while. It is not to be considered as disparaging to say that the volume as a whole is not up to the standard of earlier work. They were homogeneous and continuously produced. The present volume deals with a varied list of topics and the chapters were produced at different times.

CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF.

Philadelphia.

The Government of England. By A. LAWRENCE LOWELL. Professor of the Science of Government in Harvard University. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1908. Two volumes. Pp. xv, 570; viii, 563. \$4.)

This work is a comprehensive treatise upon the English government, both national and local. It gives a detailed and illuminating account of the theory and practice of the central government with particular reference to the Crown, the Cabinet, the Lords, and the Commons. The details of parliamentary and electoral procedure are also given considerable space. The first volume is concluded with an exposition of the party system. The second volume treats of political parties, local government, education, the church, the empire, and the courts of law. The work concludes with about thirty-five pages of interesting and instructive "reflections."

The author has worked over all of the available sources of information, both primary and secondary, and, as a rule, has used his materials with rare skill. He has entered into the spirit